











































































































































Konichiwa, manga fans. I hope you still have your seatbelts on, because things only get wilder from here. Two letters arrived in time for this issue's press, but read them, because they're very informative and fun and overall better than a Boomer on your back. Besides, there's a surprise here!

Hi Dark Horsel

Thanks a lot for the preview copy of **Bubblegum Crisis: Grand Mal**. I suspect that you expect me to offer some constructive criticism on the book and hey! That's what I always do!

First of all: The Art. I have got to hand it to you, Warren. You are simply the most successful manga-style artist around! I absolutely love the way you mix American and Japanese style together. Although I don't know what it'll look like in color, I must say that the art on Bubblegum Crisis seems not to be as "blurry" (due to your highly detailed, always-present backgrounds) as some of the pages in The Dirty Pair: Sim Hell were.

As for a presentation issue, I think you guys did great! I'm not your die-hard Bubblegum Crisis fan, but as for both being introductive and at the same time not boring for those already introduced to the anime, I can see nothing wrong with your try. The story flowed smoothly throughout and I loved the "video sample" stuff and excerpts from several sources in order to convey information.

If the comic characters are faithful to the anime originals, well, I'm afraid I'm just not the one to judge that. I've only seen a couple of the OAVs, and I guess that's just not enough to base a comparative analysis on, but since you succeeded in all other fields, who knows?

I'm very much looking forward to seeing this stuff in color. Although it could destroy the art totally, I'm quite confident you won't let it.

Sincerely,

Zimeon Lundström Marknadsvägen 123 S-183 34 TÄBY Sweden

It was very kind of you to write, Zimeon and I hope that you have found **Bubblegum Crisis** to be as exciting as I have. Working with Adam Warren on this book has been a whirlwind and I can only say his is some of the best work I have ever had the pleasure working with.

Regarding the character designs (big surprise coming up here — get ready!), I can only suggest we listen to the words of Sonoda Kenichi, the original character designer for Bubblegum Crisis:

Hey guys, Sonoda here.

Man, I am *seriously* impressed by the detailed artwork Adam has done for the **BGC** comic. Especially those "very-annoying-to-draw-even-forme" hardsuits and they're everywhere, too! Must have been a brain-bending amount of work...

I hear some American BGC fans are complaining about Adam's art, saying "It doesn't look exactly like the original BGC." Hell, check out the original animation videos — the characters don't always follow my model sheets exactly. But that's understandable, as the cells were drawn by various different animators. People should just enjoy the differing artistic interpretations — each artist leaves the stamp of their own personality on their work. In Adam's case, I really feel he has the same true "otaku spirit" that we Japanese creators do.

Go for it, Adam! You have the power to make all American comics fans into otaku!

Sonoda Kenichi

18 0 M 1994. 2.13

P.S.: But if I could have one small request... I'd ask you to make Nene's nose just a bit smaller...

What can I add to that? Thank you, Sonoda Kenichi, for taking the time to write and tell us what you thought of **Bubblegum Crisis**.

Next month, we announce the winner of issue #1's Spot the Character contest. Who wins? Find out in the over-the-top, mayhem-packed conclusion of Dark Horse's Bubblegum Crisis: Grand Mal, #4, shipping July 5, 1994 to a comics shop near you. Don't miss it!

-Edward Martin III

